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Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is mandated by General Assembly resolution 65/111 and is a compilation of replies from Member States related to scholarships and training facilities made available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

* A/66/50.

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I. Introduction

1. By General Assembly resolution 845 (IX), Member States were invited to extend to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities not only for study and training of university standard but also for study at the post-primary level, as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI), offers extended under resolution 845 (IX) are communicated by the Secretariat to the administering Powers to enable them to give appropriate publicity to the offers in the Territories under their administration.

3. Information on scholarships offered by Member States under the programme is made available to prospective applicants. Reference to the programme has been included in successive editions of the guide entitled *Study Abroad*, published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

4. Under the terms of resolution 845 (IX) and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 65/111, the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly each year a report containing detailed information on the offers made and the extent to which they were utilized, the most recent of which is A/65/67. The present report, which covers the period from 18 March 2010 to 17 March 2011, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 65/111.

II. Scholarship offers and awards

A. Offering States

5. Over the years, the 60 States Members of the United Nations listed below have offered to make scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the relevant General Assembly resolutions:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

6. One non-member State has also offered scholarships:

Holy See.

B. Offers and awards

Member States

Argentina

7. In a note verbale dated 15 February 2011, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations requested that the following paragraphs be included in the present report:

> The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 2065 (XX) and in subsequent resolutions, and the Special Committee on Decolonization, have described the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation involving a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, have established that the way to put an end to that situation is the peaceful and negotiated solution of the sovereignty dispute, and have requested both Governments to continue without delay the bilateral negotiations recommended by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.
>
> Despite the illegal British occupation, the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are part of the Argentine national territory, and their inhabitants therefore have equality of access with the rest of the Argentine population to the Argentine public education system. This includes free education at the primary, secondary and tertiary/university levels, as well as to the benefits of the national scholarship programme offered by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Argentina.

Australia

8. In a communication dated 9 March 2011, the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that:

> The Australia Awards bring together scholarship programmes run by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Australian Agency for International Development under a single recognizable brand which will, over time, build a new generation of leaders who develop a strong understanding of Australia while studying at our institutions.
>
> The Development Awards, managed by the Australian Agency for International Development, support developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
>
> The Endeavour Awards, managed by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, recognize academic excellence and allow citizens of the Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Europe and the Americas to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia. Awards are also available for Australians to do the same abroad.
>
> The total number of Australia Awards awarded across all regions so far in 2011 is 3,290. This includes 2,419 Development Awards (with all incoming award holders from developing countries), 685 Endeavour Awards (559 incoming awards; 126 outgoing awards for Australians) and 186 Australian

Regional Development Scholarships for Pacific Islanders to study at several tertiary institutions in the Pacific.

Currently, applicants from American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau and the United States Virgin Islands are able to apply for Australia Awards.

Australia does not currently offer scholarships to Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and Western Sahara.

Since 2007, 10 Australia Awards have been offered to nationals from Tokelau, 14 awards to New Caledonian nationals and 1 award to an Australian to undertake his award in New Caledonia. Further information on the Australia Awards including participating countries and the scholarships available to each country can be obtained at www.australiaawards.gov.au.

Separate from the Australia Awards and as part of the broader education engagement of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, 16 Australian students will undertake exchange opportunities in New Caledonia through the international student exchange programme. This programme provides funding to Australian higher education institutions to facilitate student mobility between higher education institutions in the Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas.

Canada

9. In a note verbale dated 25 February 2011, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that Canada had provided scholarships, as detailed below:

The Government of Canada provides scholarships to Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands students under the Canada-CARICOM [Caribbean Community] Leadership Scholarship Program, the Faculty Leadership Pilot Program and the Canada-CARICOM Virtual University Scholarship Program. These three programmes are extensions of the new Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship Program. Students from these countries are also eligible to participate in the Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program.

The Canada-CARICOM Leadership Scholarship Program and Faculty Leadership Pilot Program are facilitated through institutional collaboration and student exchange agreements between Canadian and CARICOM post-secondary institutions. Approximately 85 scholarships are awarded annually, while 100 Canada-CARICOM Virtual University scholarships were awarded in 2009-2010 and two students from Montserrat were the recipients. Before the reconfiguration of the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship Program, both Anguilla and British Virgin Islands had been awarded one traditional scholarship and Montserrat, two. Under the Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program, approximately 480 awards are given each year.

Within the above framework, scholarship recipients remain registered as full-time students in their home institutions to which they return to receive

credit for the studies/research undertaken while in Canada. Institutional collaboration agreements provide tuition fee waivers and facilitate credit recognition.

Information regarding federally funded scholarships available to international students, faculty and institutions, searchable by country, are listed on the government website at www.scholarships-bourses.gc.ca.

Vanier and Banting Awards: Among multilateral mobility programmes through the federal granting agencies are the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (http://www.vanier.gc.ca/eng/home-accueil.aspx), aimed at attracting world-class doctoral students to Canada, and the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships (http://banting.fellowships-bourses.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.html), intended to attract and develop the world's best and brightest postdoctoral researchers in Canada.

Mexico

10. In a note verbale dated 28 February 2011, the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that:

As part of its programme of scholarships for foreigners, the Government of Mexico offers a scholarship annually to each of the following territories: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau and United States Virgin Islands. In the case of the territory of the Western Sahara (Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic), a total of six scholarships are offered: three are granted as part of the Non-Self-Governing Territories Programme and three within the Asia, Pacific, Africa and Middle East Programme.

III. Applications made through the United Nations

11. In accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1696 (XVI), applications for scholarships received by the United Nations Secretariat from inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories are transmitted simultaneously to the offering States for consideration and to the administering Powers for information.

12. From 18 March 2010 to 17 March 2011, no requests for information on the availability of scholarships was received by the Secretariat.

IV. Conclusion

13. Scholarships and training facilities offered by Member States to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories represent a valuable contribution to their educational advancement.